

P-564/M-91-643 ORDER APPROVING PLAN AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILING

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Spring Grove
Co-op Telephone Company's Four-
Party Upgrade Plan

ISSUE DATE: December 10, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-564/M-91-643

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

I. Proceedings to Date

In 1991 the Minnesota legislature enacted legislation to eliminate four-party service to Minnesota telephone subscribers. Minn. Stat. § 237.068 (Supp. 1991). The legislation requires all local exchange companies offering or providing four-party service to file plans to substitute two-party or one-party service by October 31, 1993. The Commission is to review and approve these plans, to monitor performance under the plans, and to report to the legislature on January 1, 1992 and January 1, 1993 on progress in eliminating four-party service.

On August 13, 1991, Spring Grove Co-op Telephone Company (Spring Grove or the Company) submitted its proposed plan for eliminating four-party service. On October 9, 1991, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments recommending Commission approval of the plan. The Department also recommended that the Company be required to file new tariffs and a status report reflecting the upgrade from four-party service.

The matter came before the Commission on December 3, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

II. The Company's Plan

Spring Grove provides telephone service to approximately 1100 customers in one Minnesota exchange, the Spring Grove exchange. Four-party service is currently being offered to approximately 62 of Spring Grove's customers. Under the filed plan, Spring Grove will completely eliminate party line service by the end of 1991.

III. Commission Action

The Commission finds that Spring Grove's proposed plan is in conformity with Minn. Stat. § 237.068. The Company will have eliminated four-party service well in advance of the legislative deadline. The Commission will approve Spring Grove's proposed plan. The Commission also agrees with the Department that the Company must file new tariffs and a status report reflecting the upgrade from four-party service.

ORDER

1. Spring Grove Co-op Telephone Company's plan to eliminate four-party service by December 31, 1991 is approved.
2. The Company shall update its tariffs upon the elimination of party line service.
3. On or before February 1, 1992, the Company shall file a report on the status of its upgrade from four-party service.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)